

their homes with a hot meal and to support Red's Restaurant in Essex. Little Red Wagon provided nearly 2,000 meals in 2015 alone.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Jeannine for the dedicated service she provides to the citizens of Essex and Page County, Iowa. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Jeannine and wishing her nothing but continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF RICHARD ALLEN

HON. MARK DESAULNIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Richard "Dick" Allen.

Dick dedicated his life to educating and empowering California's youth. Through his 41 years of service as a teacher, principal, and district administrator, Dick touched the lives of thousands of students through his leadership and deep affection for his students.

As you may know, Dick spent the first decade of his career in the classroom, followed by a transition to the administrative team where he rose from Vice Principal to Director of Elementary Education and ultimately retired in 1997 as the Director of Continuing Education.

After retiring, Dick was elected to the Board of Education to continue his dedication to public service.

Included among his many accomplishments in service to the Bay Area are graduating 2,298 students, opening technology centers, expanding tutoring and mentoring services. He also helped implement a classroom for a language lab, fought to replace playground equipment, and began districtwide training in emergency preparation and crisis management. During his tenure, Walnut Acres Elementary was named a Federal No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School, the Board of Education received a California Council for Adult Education's "Friend of Education" award, and improved test scores at almost all grade levels.

In addition to his role in our schools, Dick was a District Delegate to the California School Board Association, a Chair-elect of the Concord Chamber of Commerce, a Court Appointed Special Advocate on the Board of Directors, and a foster child educational advocate.

Dick's long and decorated career is a testament to his values and dedication to education. I am saddened to hear of his passing, but his legacy will live on in Contra Costa County.

TRIBUTE TO IDA MEHLMANN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Ida Mehlmann of Griswold, Iowa, on the celebration of her 100th birthday on September 4, 2016. Ida celebrates this special day with her

twin brother, Ira Spieker, who lives in Michigan.

Ida resides at the Griswold Care Center in Griswold, Iowa, and enjoys embroidering and working on puzzles. Ida tells her friends of her simple philosophy: she takes life day by day and tends to do whatever she wants to do. Ida and her late husband, LeRoy, were married on March 8, 1939 at the Atlantic Methodist Church parsonage. They had six children including twin daughters. Ida was born and raised on a farm, helped with the daily chores of farm life growing up, and later married a farmer. She said she has seen many changes throughout her life, but the biggest change was having access to electricity. Ida is also known for her baking skills and her famous sour cream raisin pie. Her talent in the kitchen has given her the reputation as one of the best pie makers in southwest Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and pleased to congratulate Ida Mehlmann on her 100th birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Ida on this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATHENA INTERNATIONAL

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of Athena International. Athena International strives to create balance in leadership worldwide by seeking to encourage, educate, and support our next generation of female leaders. Its roots trace back to Michigan where it began as a local program, and it has grown into a global movement, serving to inspire female leaders both domestically and throughout the globe.

Founded in 1982 by Martha Mertz, Athena International began as a small non-profit organization in Lansing, Michigan. Recognizing a need for stronger female leadership in her business community, Mertz launched the Athena Award program. This award would go to individuals who not only excelled at their professions, but who also gave back to their communities and helped motivate others in their communities to lead, particularly women.

Additionally, the organization developed the Athena Leadership Model, a program seeking to best prepare women to be successful leaders. This model identifies eight distinct attributes for women in leadership: Authentic Self, Relationships, Giving Back, Collaboration, Courageous Acts, Learning, Fierce Advocacy, Celebration and Joy. These personal traits are intuitive for women, and when paired with traditional leadership characteristics, prepare them to become leaders.

Martha Mertz's vision has become a global movement. There have now been over 7,000 recipients of the Athena Award, with these awards presented in 500 communities throughout 8 countries. The organization continues to provide awards to individuals who empower women and best position them to become our future leaders, and provides an

annual leadership forum and luncheon for female leaders to make meaningful connections with one another.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the Athena International Organization. Their commitment to preparing our future leaders deserves praise, and we wish them many more years of success and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO OAKLAND MANOR

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Oakland Manor of Oakland, Iowa, for its 50 years of service in providing high-quality healthcare in Oakland and southwest Iowa.

Oakland Manor was established in 1966 and offers skilled nursing care and assisted living to its resident community. The facility also offers a special ventilator unit and provides continuum of care with a dedicated staff and medical team. The Oakland Manor staff is committed to helping their residents live a quality life every day.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Oakland Manor and its staff for reaching this milestone in dedicated and devoted service to Oakland and southwest Iowa. Their highly skilled team makes a difference by helping and serving others. It is with great honor that I recognize Oakland Manor today. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them and in wishing the entire staff nothing but continued success.

TRIBUTE TO GARY HERRICK

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 26, 2016

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Gary Herrick of Van Meter, Iowa, for his 40 years of service to the Van Meter Fire Department.

Mr. Herrick recently retired from the department after four decades of service to the community of Van Meter. Throughout his tenure he has held every rank in the department, including chief, and has been an invaluable source of information for all other members of the fire department. His vast experience not only helped train fellow firefighters on how to best fight fires and rescue people, but also how to show compassion to victims, and how to interact with the community. Current Fire Chief Jon Bruen told the Dallas County News that Mr. Herrick has been a mentor to him during his years on the department.

Now retired, Mr. Herrick will continue his service by working to construct buildings with World Mission Builders, a mission which has built over 230 churches and related buildings in 88 countries. Even still, he plans to be only a phone call away if the Van Meter Fire Department should have any questions.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Gary for his forty years of service to his community. I urge my